

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: ROKG DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

1. I WENT OVER GROUND OF US CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC REACTION TO ROK HANDLING OF MYONGDONG INCIDENT AT LUNCH WITH PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY GENERAL KIM CHONG-YOM APRIL 15. KIM SAID THAT PRESIDENT PARK RECOGNIZES AND IS CONCERNED ABOUT ADVERSE REACTION IN US, SINCE BASIS OF HIS POLICY IS STILL TO MAINTAIN CLOSEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS WITH US. KIM EMPHASIZED THAT PRESIDENT PARK IS VERY GRATEFUL FOR PAST US SUPPORT AND WISHES IT TO CONTINUE.

2. NEVERTHELESS KIM STONEWALLED ME ON ANY PROSPECTS FOR FUNDAMENTAL MODERATION OF ROKG DOMESTIC POLICY. HE WAS PARTICULARLY VEHEMENT IN DENUNCIATION OF KIM DAE JUNG AS PRINCIPAL "AGITATOR" AND POINTED TO KIM'S PAST RECORD OF OPPOSITION TO ROK-GOJ SETTLEMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF ROK FORCES TO VIETNAM AS INDICATORS OF HIS UNRELIABILITY. ACCORDING KIM KHONG-YOM, PRESIDENT PARK'S MAJOR CONCERN IS THAT FAILURE TO ACT FIRMLY AGAINST INSTIGATORS OF MARCH 1 DECLARATION WOULD CREATE "FIREBALL" WITH STUDENTS ONCE MORE EMERGING IN THE STREETS IN EFFORT TO OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT AS OCCURRED IN 1960. WHILE RECOGNIZING STRENGTH OF PRESIDENT PARK'S SUPPORT AND WEAKNESSES OF OPPOSITION, KIM SAID THAT PARK GOVERNMENT UNWILLING TO ACCEPT ANY RISK OF RECURRENCE OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AT PRESENT JUNCTURE, DESPITE ADVERSE US AND OTHER FOREIGN REACTION. HE URGED, INSTEAD, GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF KOREA'S "UNIQUE" SITUATION ON PART OF HIS FOREIGN

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CRITICS. I POINTED OUT THAT UNDERSTANDING WAS ALSO TWO-WAY

STREET.

3. WHEN I REMONSTRATED KIM ABOUT EMBRYONIC ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY, FLOWING FROM ORCHESTRATED ATTACKS ON CONGRESSMAN FRASER, KIM UNDERSTOOD MY POINT QUICKLY AND AGREED. I HAD

PREVIOUSLY RAISED THIS PROBLEM WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CHUNG IL-KWON, WHO SAID THAT HE WOULD INCREASE HIS EFFORTS TO TURN OFF FLOW OF ATTACKS ON FRASER ON PART OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

4. COMMENT: ANTI-FRASER CAMPAIGN HAS IN FACT MODERATED SIGNIFICANTLY IN PAST TWO DAYS. RUMORS OF POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATIONS BY "SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS" ARE ALSO NO LONGER PREVALENT. WHEN RUMORS FIRST CROPPED UP, WE MADE CLEAR TO KEY OFFICIALS THAT SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD NOT BE APPRECIATED AND COULD SERIOUSLY BACKFIRE ON ROKG. ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE OF TREATMENT MYONGDONG INCIDENT, HOWEVER, KIM'S COMMENTS CONFIRMED APPARENT DETERMINATION OF IARK GOVERNMENT TO STAND FAST ON PRESSING THEIR CASE AGAINST KIM DAE UNG AND OTHER KEY FIGURES INVOLVED IN

MARCH 1 DECLARATION.
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